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# STATE DOCUMENTS

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1967-69  
*biennial report*

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## *chairman's message . . .*

The Montana Arts Council views its past with pride and its future with hope. As should be evident from this report, there is lively interest in the arts, and there is increasing demand for the arts. But there is grave need for continued development.

Council members have learned that exciting things start to happen when public and private sectors combine their ideas and energies for the common good. It is a combined effort, with combined benefit. The council submits this 1967-1969 biennial report of its activities, as required by law, to tell the arts story.

The view of the future is one filled with hope; hope that the council will receive the encouragement and concrete support so vital to continued growth in and for the State of Montana.

**CHARLES W. BOLEN**  
**Chairman, Montana Arts Council**

### **current members**

FIRMAN H. BROWN JR., MISSOULA  
MRS. WILLIAM CORDINGLEY, GREAT FALLS  
ROBERT Q. CREBO, HELENA  
EARL DAHLSTROM, MOORE  
ROBERT FEHLBERG, BILLINGS  
HERBERT L. JACOBSON, HELENA  
MRS. BLANCHE JUDGE, HELENA  
SKULASON MOE, POPLAR  
VAN KIRKE NELSON, KALISPELL  
MRS. DOROTHY NELSTEAD, BILLINGS  
LYNDON POMEROY, BILLINGS  
HAROLD ROSÉ, BOZEMAN (VICE CHAIRMAN)  
MRS. JOSEPH SAMPLE, BILLINGS  
S. JOHN SCHILE, MISSOULA

### **former members**

MRS. WILLIAM GRAHAM, LARAMIE, WYOMING  
SUMNER GERARD, BILLINGS  
JAMES HAUGHEY, BILLINGS  
MICHAEL KENNEDY, HEMPSTEAD, LONG ISLAND  
JAMES LOGAN, GREAT FALLS  
MRS. GEORGE LUND, RESERVE  
WAYNE MONTGOMERY, LIMA  
GEORGE PERKINS, BILLINGS  
COLIN RAFF, BUTTE  
RICHARD REINHOLTZ, MISSOULA  
BEN STEIN, WILSALL  
MRS. EDWIN STICKNEY, MILES CITY  
ALFRED WEBER, HELENA  
ARCHIE JOSCELYN, MISSOULA

## ***facts and figures and feeling . . .***

The Montana Arts Council story started in 1965, when a group of interested Montana citizens asked for and received official recognition to form an arts agency. The group was asked first to survey the state's cultural resources and then to recommend ways to extend, encourage, strengthen, create and coordinate Montana arts activity.

By late 1966, the governor had their report. It was one filled with facts and figures and feeling. They felt Montana needed a permanent arts council, one to guard and channel the future of the performing and visual arts in the state.

In 1967, the legislature established the Montana Arts Council (MAC), and Governor Tim Babcock appointed 15 Montanans to serve on it. The council had many things to work toward, but many things to work against:

*"The shortage of qualified art teachers in smaller communities; the dearth of professional music instructors in those same areas; the paucity of trained drama instructors in the schools; the non-existence of dance, except in a few larger towns; the limited number of professional touring groups coming to Montana; and the lack of adequate facilities in which to perform."*

That was in 1967. Since then, council activity has involved more than 170,880 people—many are in the audience, some are on stage—through more than 70 projects.

The MAC applied for, received and disseminated \$70,894 in federal funds, but every grant has been matched by the local Montana organization seeking support. Matched by the recipients, this seed money generates new projects and bolsters existing ones.

Specifically, the council focuses assistance in eight categories: visual arts, drama, dance, music, technical assistance, tours, scholarships and the Montana Institute of the Arts.

Behind these categories, naturally, are people. Behind the 70 plus projects are Montanans, young and old, who share with others the product of their time, effort and talent.

*"If we . . . can contribute to bringing about in this country a renaissance of beauty and creativity and greatness in culture, we will have made a significant contribution to our country and toward solving the problems that seem in one sense so remote from the arts and in another so close to them."*

... DAVID ROCKEFELLER, SPEAKING TO THE BUSINESS COMMITTEE FOR THE ARTS, INC.

*"Indeed, the chief contribution of the arts lies in what they can do for the individual—for his eyes and ears, his senses, his mind, and, perhaps most vital of all, his curiosity, his desire to explore, his all-important faculty of awareness. As this faculty is increased, as excellence is sought, so does the individual improve himself as a human being."*

... FROM AN NEA REPORT TO CONGRESS

*"What is most needed is overcoming the ethnic and sociological barriers which create the feeling that the arts are for the elite."*

... A CIVIC LEADER FROM NEW BEDFORD, MASS.

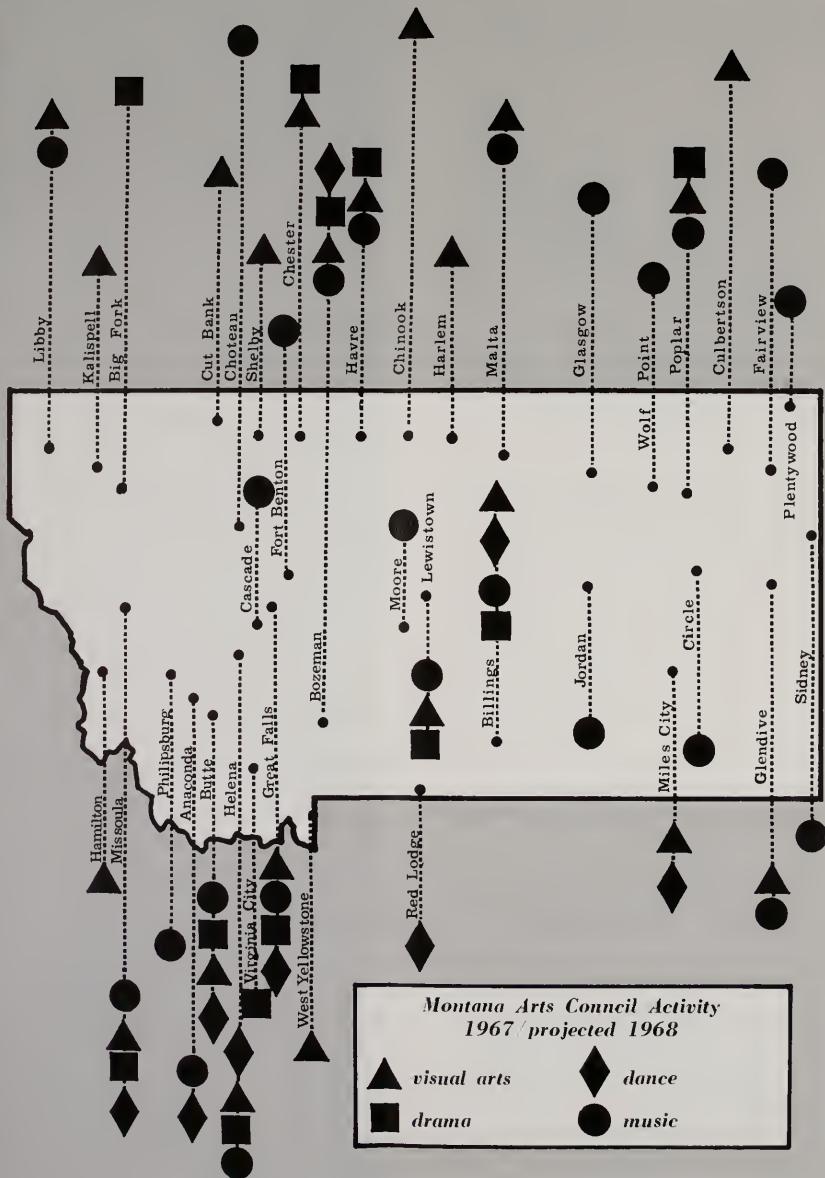
*"It is obvious that the arts affect our economic life, but their social—and personal—impact will be even greater than their economic consequences in an increasingly technological society. As machines take over more and more of the monotonous tasks that have consumed so much of man's leisure time and energies in the past, we will have more leisure time. As the marvels of science continue to free us from drudgery, we must learn how to turn our increased leisure into an opportunity for personal fulfillment and service to others rather than a sentence to boredom and futility. Science can give us the gift of time; the arts will teach us how to use it wisely."*

... CHARLES W. BOLEN

*"From the earliest times, the arts have been the key to our development as a civilization. The arts and humanities have been responsible for every great idea known to man. A study of history convinces us that only truth and art are the enduring factors in any civilization."*

DEWEY F. BARTLETT, GOVERNOR OF OKLAHOMA

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Musical measures have always meshed with the tracks along Montana trails. Indian chants were answered by pioneer ballads.

Now harmonicas are not as common as harpsichords, and occasional prairie solos have been replaced by frequent symphony concerts.

As musical expression matures in Montana, the MAC lends support to community performances by symphonies, chorale groups, chamber musicians, string quartets and opera troupes. Appearances stretch from Libby to Sidney.

All five civic symphony organizations in the state (Billings, Helena, Butte, Great Falls and Missoula) received MAC grants during the 1967-1969 biennium. Funds were awarded primarily to improve professionalism by the addition of guest artists or musicians in residence. The five symphony societies presented 27 performances during the 1967 season, and musicians from Great Falls traveled to Havre for a special concert.

The MAC favors Montana musicians who tour to towns which, because of their locations, are relatively culturally isolated.

Participants in the Young Audiences program, for instance, toured 17 communities and performed 56 times for an estimated audience of 22,000 grade school children during 1967 and 1968. Cooperatively financed by Young Audiences, Inc., the local grade school, the University of Montana and the MAC, students and faculty from the School of Fine Arts in Missoula who belong to groups such as the Opera

Workshop, String Quartet and Theater Quintet tour sections of the state to make the live performing arts a reality, not just a dream.

The Parmly Chamber Music Players, a trio from the Billings Symphony, tour the rural communities of Yellowstone County each year bringing chamber music live to youth and adults in the area.

In addition to encouraging these community projects, the MAC favors instruction programs, especially for Montana's youngsters. Summer camps, festivals and workshops in Bozeman, Missoula, Billings, Helena and Red Lodge bring together the talent and inquisitiveness of students from throughout the state for intensive study with the finest professional guidance.

Special clinics are conducted for artist-teachers who seek improvement of their skills and techniques, also. For example, Rocky Mountain College and Montana State University both staff annual workshops for teachers of piano. Both projects have received grants from the MAC in their efforts to serve and strengthen Montana music education.

Artist-teachers who belong to the Montana chapter of the National Association of Teachers of Singing have, since 1959, adjudicated annual auditions of the state's outstanding students of voice. All students are offered critical evaluation of their ability, with scholarships and additional tutoring offered to four winners in the audition competition. For the past two years, these auditions have been partially financed through grants from the MAC.

Display, development and demonstrations are the three priorities determining grant support from the MAC to visual arts programs in the state.

During the biennium, council grants were allotted to upgrade exhibits, to equip facilities and to provide demonstrations to improve art technique and skill. In recent years, familiar forms of artwork stemming from Montana have been painting, pottery, sculpture, crafts and graphics.

Instructional programs are of primary importance to the visual arts movement, and the MAC awards grants for classes and workshops each year to aid artists and hobbyists. Through a matching grant to the Archie Bray Foundation, the MAC helped sponsor a ceramics workshop under the direction of a nationally known potter. In Billings, the Yellowstone Art Center now offers ceramics classes on Saturdays and evenings to high school students and adults.

Ladislas Segy, director of a New York art gallery, presented special lecture-demonstrations to students and faculty at Montana State University units in Bozeman, Billings and Missoula. Montana State University has scheduled a high school art festival in which high school art work will be juried by MSU art staff and Bozeman Senior High teachers, with awards going to three entries of merit. While attending the art festival, participants may take advantage of supervised workshop instruction, also.

The Ka-Eyta art studio which is incorporated by a group of Montana Indians in Harlem

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is another endeavor that has received financial backing from the MAC. The Indians produce bronze casting, weaving, drawing and painting which has been exhibited at the University of Montana. Cash prizes were given for three top entries from a Poindexter Fund managed by the MAC.

A guidebook to photographically document Montana's historically significant architecture will be published partially through funds contributed by the MAC. This effort to record some of the structures built by and for early Montanans is being compiled at Montana State University.

Two Montana artists are exploring expanded impact through unusual combinations of film and music. The MAC-supported experiment in film making involves the fusing of visuals and vibrations for a unique experience in conventional listening-viewing responses. One such film, *The Violin People*, was prepared for presentation in conjunction with the Montana String Quartet for Young Audiences appearances around the state.

The flexibility of visual art display allows exchange of art objects and traveling art shows in many Montana communities. By displaying art in galleries, schools, businesses, churches and public gatherings, the MAC is building awareness and appreciation through exposure.

Montanans saw a rebirth in 1967; they saw it because they were in the audience, and the rebirth was on a stage.

The setting was anywhere the Montana Repertory Theater was. Not since the 1890-1930 period when stock theater companies roamed the Northwest had the state enjoyed such a valuable and vibrant treasure as a professional touring group. But with its first curtain call, the Montana Repertory Theater Company restored year-round theater engagements to Montana.

Members of the MAC were eager to aid the rebirth of touring legitimate theater. It would be a reawakening for Montana's drama professionals and adult theater goers. It would be an awakening for the state's artististically starved youth. The MAC optimistically granted the largest allocations both years of the 1967-69 biennium to help establish the Rep Theater.

It was well worth it. From its 1967 debut through its 1968 summer season, the 39-member troupe produced 102 performances. On its three-week maiden tour including nine Montana communities, the company traveled more than 3,500 miles and performed for a total

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audience of more than 15,000 people. In residence in Missoula, the company performed five plays in repertory during the eight-week 1968 summer season. As man's leisure time increases, so does his search for artistic relaxation, and the Rep Theater provided aesthetic stimulation for drama students and superb entertainment for a transient audience of hundreds of vacationers, students, local residents and visitors from throughout Montana.

Montanans, including MAC members, enjoy with pride their community and summer theaters scattered throughout the state. Matching grants were awarded to six of these playhouses by the MAC to help upgrade talent and offset production costs. The theaters (Petro Summer and Billings Studio in Billings, Loft in Bozeman, Wm. Froehlich Community in Butte, Bigfork Summer Playhouse and the Virginia City Players) attract loyal and larger audiences each year as a compliment to their theatrical skill and ingenuity.

Many young students from the state participate in all phases of theatrical production and attend classes in creative dramatics, scenes and improvisation, technical theater and performance each year at the High School Fine Arts Camp partially financed by the MAC. The three-week workshop allows study under experienced professionals at the University of Montana.

The MAC officially welcomed dance to Montana in 1967 as it ushered in the first statewide dance festival for high schools, universities and private dance schools.

With a gathering of more than 400 Montana students and teachers, Helena became the site for a lively exchange of creative leaps and bounds. The festival, cosponsored by the MAC and the Montana Dance Arts Association, boasted guest instructors Harold Christensen and Anatol Joukowsky of San Francisco. They conducted master dance classes in ballet and folk, but the evening production also included interpretive, character and ceremonial arrangements. Montana State University received a small grant from the MAC which was used for participation in the festival.

An MAC grant also went to the University of Montana annual dance workshop to help produce a public program presenting student talent.

The University also directs elementary and intermediate-advanced classes during a two-week high school camp each summer. As part of the camp curriculum, instruction is given in ballet, pointe, character and modern dance forms.

To aid teachers and students of both private and public dance schools, a dance film rental library is being compiled for loan throughout the state. Subsidized by the MAC, this film rental library will be an invaluable instructional aid to all teachers of dance since the state is isolated from the major dance centers of the nation.

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*High School Fine Arts Camp*

*Bigfork Playhouse*



*Petro Summer Playhouse*



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Montana High School Fine Arts Camp



*Billings Symphony*



*Helena Civic Symphony*



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*Eugene Andrie, Conductor, Missoula Symphony*



*Billings Symphony*



## ***combined contributions of time, effort and finances . . .***

MAC arts activity and support center clearly on the four major muses of music, drama, visual arts and dance, but the council also considers and coordinates with auxiliary agencies in the state.

The Montana Institute of the Arts, for example, has cooperated with the MAC to supply programs in the arts for Montana residents. The MIA bimonthly publication, *Montana Arts*, has been subsidized during the 1967-69 biennium by the MAC. The MIA also received a grant to organize a Folk Arts Festival from the MAC budget. An MAC technical assistance grant was awarded the MIA Foundation to assist statewide fund raising efforts.

Through grants for education and scholarship, the MAC has assisted the production of the Montana State University Chamber Music Camp, the Red Lodge Music Festival, the University of Montana High School Fine Arts Camp, the Montana State University High School Art Festival and the National Association of Teachers of Singing Student Auditions. In conjunction with the MAC, the Montana State Music Teachers Association awards a college scholarship to one of Montana's outstanding piano students each year.

Statewide endorsement of Montana Arts Council objectives has been proclaimed by the Montana chapter of the American Association of University Women and the Montana Institute of the Arts. The MAC recognizes that combined contributions of time, effort and finances will insure a livelier arts awareness, and its members are continually striving to consolidate participation and programs.

**1967-1968 grants from the  
National Endowment for the Arts:**

ALABAMA	\$39,383
ALASKA	39,383
ARIZONA	39,383
ARKANSAS	39,383
CALIFORNIA	39,383
COLORADO	39,383
CONNECTICUT	39,383
DELAWARE	25,472
D. OF C.	39,383
FLORIDA	39,383
GEORGIA	39,383
GUAM	39,383
HAWAII	39,383
IDAHO	14,947
ILLINOIS	39,383
INDIANA	39,383
IOWA	39,383
KANSAS	39,383
KENTUCKY	39,383
LOUISIANA	39,383
MAINE	39,383
MARYLAND	39,383
MASSACHUSETTS	39,383
MICHIGAN	39,383
MINNESOTA	39,383
MISSISSIPPI	39,383
MISSOURI	39,383
MONTANA	39,383
NEBRASKA	35,000
NEVADA	25,000
NEW HAMPSHIRE	39,383
NEW JERSEY	39,383
NEW MEXICO	39,383
NEW YORK	39,383
NORTH CAROLINA	39,383
NORTH DAKOTA	14,040
OHIO	39,383
OKLAHOMA	39,383
OREGON	39,383
PENNSYLVANIA	39,383
PUERTO RICO	39,383
RHODE ISLAND	39,383
SOUTH CAROLINA	24,500
SOUTH DAKOTA	10,000
TENNESSEE	39,383
TEXAS	39,383
UTAH	39,383
VERMONT	39,383
VIRGINIA	39,383
VIRGIN ISLANDS	39,383
WASHINGTON	39,383
WEST VIRGINIA	39,383
WISCONSIN	39,383
WYOMING	39,383

**1968-1969 grants from the  
National Endowment for the Arts:**

All of the official arts agencies representing the areas listed above received \$30,909 excepting Indiana, Delaware and American Samoa which received no funds from the National Endowment for the Arts.

## ***combined contributions of time, effort and finances . . .***

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**MONTANA ARTS COUNCIL**  
**FINANCIAL STATEMENT FOR FISCAL YEAR 1967-68**

<b>Appropriations, Income, and Receipts</b>	<b>Operational State Fund</b>	<b>Program Fund</b>	<b>Total</b>
Montana Appropriation .....	\$12,500.00		\$12,500.00
Federal Appropriation .....		\$39,383.00	39,383.00
Gifts Deposited with State Treasurer.....		260.00	260.00
<b>Total Funds Available.....</b>	<b>12,500.00</b>	<b>39,643.00</b>	<b>52,143.00</b>
<b>Expenditures</b>			
Salaries & Employee Benefits .....	4,600.34		4,600.34
Office Supplies & Contractual Services .....	4,679.64		4,679.64
Technical Assistance & Grants.....	780.00	39,205.00	39,985.00
	( 10,059.98 )	( 39,205.00 )	49,264.98
<b>Fund Balance, June 30, 1968.....</b>	<b>\$ 2,440.02</b>	<b>\$ 438.00*</b>	<b>\$ 2,878.02</b>

\*Unexpended, returned to National Endowment for the Arts

**PROPOSED BUDGET FOR FISCAL YEAR 1968-69**

<b>Appropriations, Income, and Receipts</b>	<b>Operational State Fund</b>	<b>Program Fund</b>	<b>Total</b>
Balance FY: 67-68.....	\$ 2,440.02		\$ 2,440.02
Montana Appropriation .....	12,500.00		12,500.00
Federal Appropriation .....		\$30,909.00	30,909.00
Gifts Deposited with State Treasurer.....		51.00	51.00
<b>Total Funds Available.....</b>	<b>14,940.02</b>	<b>30,960.00</b>	<b>45,900.02</b>
<b>Expenditures</b>			
Salaries & Employee Benefits.....	5,150.00		5,150.00
Office Supplies & Contractual Services .....	8,790.02		8,790.02
Technical Assistance & Grants .....	1,000.00	30,960.00	31,960.00
	(\$14,940.02)	(\$30,960.00 )	(\$45,900.02)

**SUMMARY, MAC PROGRAM GRANTS**

	<b>1967-68*</b>	<b>1968-69</b>	<b>1967-69</b>
DRAMA .....	\$15,113	\$11,745	\$26,858
DANCE .....	1,240	1,299	2,539
MUSIC .....	7,520	4,931	12,451
TOURS .....	2,905	1,684	4,589
VISUAL ARTS .....	4,432	6,182	10,614
EDUCATIONAL SCHOLARSHIPS .....	3,995	2,781	6,776
MONTANA INSTITUTE OF THE ARTS .....	3,500	1,978	5,478
TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE .....	1,280	309	1,589
	<b>\$39,985</b>	<b>\$30,909</b>	<b>\$70,894</b>

\*The 1967-68 federal funds generated \$129,722.94 through matching.

## *the energy of dozens of Montanans . . .*

The Montana Arts Council draws from the energy of dozens of Montanans to accomplish its major goal—to provide the leadership, direction and financing to help arts enthusiasts help themselves.

Directing MAC activities is the chairman, who currently serves as part-time executive director. He also is dean of the School of Fine Arts at the University of Montana in Missoula where the temporary MAC office is housed.

The chairman's duties include presiding over council meetings, directing council policies, submitting requests and reports to the national office, channeling correspondence of groups interested in the arts, consulting and advising on arts matters, acting as the official arts representative to state, regional and national agencies and speaking in behalf of the council to innumerable groups in the state.

A full-time paid administrative assistant is employed in the MAC office. In addition to coordinating the executive director's responsibilities and council activities, she must handle council correspondence, manage the office and act as the financial adviser and legal consultant for fund allocations for state and federal budgets.

The MAC office is a clearing house for information from other state arts councils, for touring groups and for Montana art groups. The resources available because of the temporary location of the office would not be easily duplicated, especially considering the sparse finances available for operation.

## *an ideal mirror is being put to work . . .*

The MAC commends the efforts of residents of Liberty County, Northeast Montana and Flathead Valley who instigated local arts councils as a reflection of the craving for fine arts in relatively isolated areas. An ideal mirror is being put to work, for a local arts council can best detect the cultural needs of the community.

The Liberty County Arts Council in Chester was established by a small group of art-minded citizens before the MAC knew of its existence. Spearheaded by Mrs. Richard S. Bunker, some 145 patrons formed and financed arts activity for small towns in Liberty County, working closely with the school system for programs keyed to student involvement. Some of the projects of the LCAC included performances and workshops by the Montana Repertory Theater, musical events and art shows. Response from area residents proves the worth of such events:

*"These programs enable the young people who live far from cities to realize there are much better kinds of entertainment than television and ordinary movies offer."*

*"The Arts Council has made the performing arts a reality, not just something longed for, at the same time providing me with an opportunity to expose my young family to worthwhile entertainment and hopefully building an appreciative audience of the future."*

It is not difficult to form a community arts group, as was recently evidenced by Reverend Bruce Kline of Plentywood. Through an organized system of planning and the diligence of a few local arts enthusiasts, the Northeast Montana Fine Arts Council was created in February of 1968. Reverend Kline first checked with the MAC for guidelines, and a local steering committee was selected to recruit community participation. Following a campaign publicized in the local news media, more than 400 personal invitations were mailed to urge attendance at a public meeting to endorse council formation. Financial support for the NMFAC rests in its membership on a patron, subscriber and student basis. A board of directors, local officers and a set of impressive bylaws govern the affairs of the organization.

With a two-fold goal in mind, residents of Kalispell started in May of 1968 to launch a local arts council and to establish art workshop and gallery space in conjunction with the former Carnegie Library. The goals have been realized, and the area now supports the Flathead Valley Art Association directed by a board of seven active valley residents. The newest Montana gallery, the Hockaday Art Center, was opened through the efforts of the association.

## *a catalyst to stimulate action . . .*

Requests for assistance far exceeded the number and amounts that could be granted during the 1967-69 biennium by the Montana Arts Council. And yet, through its sparse supplementary support the council has added momentum and spurred creativity for many citizens in a state generally regarded as a cultural wasteland.

The MAC has served as a catalyst to stimulate action. It intends to continue as a catalyst, but it must narrow its scope to avoid scattering forces.

Limited funds dictate a future policy of more aid to fewer projects, even though that also would restrict flexibility.

The council grew from a recognized increasing importance of the arts in the lives of Montanans, from a need to provide arts opportunity for Montana's young people, from an awareness that youth must have quality exposure if it is to contribute to the state's cultural heritage and from a growing significance of the arts as an element which makes living and vacationing in Montana desirable to the people of other states. These needs still exist. At times they plague. As David Rockefeller recently reminded, "Projects involving the arts are not just a kind of fluffy periphery of American life. They are essential to the root problems that face our country today."

The 1967 act officially establishing the MAC as a state agency requested that its members submit a biennial report "with suggestions and recommendations for the better realization of the purposes of the council and the healthy growth and development of the arts in Montana." This, then, is the report. It should be evident that funds, encouragement, attendance, participation and awareness are key factors in any valuable arts program.

Cultivation of all Montana resources for the benefit of Montana residents will be assured if the government and private citizenry accept the dual responsibility for growth and appreciation.







